

ANDOVER BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes
January 10, 2011, 6:00 P.M.
1st Floor Conference Room
36 Bartlet Street

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Ms. Candace B. Martin, Chairman, Dr. Donald H. Miller, Vice-Chairman, Ms. Katherine Kellman, Clerk, and Mr. Thomas G. Carbone, Director of Public Health.

I. Approval of Minutes

- **Regular Meeting of December 13, 2010**

Motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Kellman to approve the regular Minutes of the Board of Health Meeting of December 13, 2010. Dr. Miller abstained. Unanimous approval.

Unanimous approval.

II. Appointments & Hearings

- **6:00 p.m. – Ron Beauregard for Healthy Communities Tobacco Control Program; Discussion of “Other Tobacco Products” (OTP)** – Mr. Ron Beauregard, Director of Healthy Communities Tobacco Control Program, informed the Board that the tobacco companies are now making OTP that are very attractive, affordable and acceptable to youth. There are tobacco products called blunt wraps that are like fruit roll-ups wrapped around a straw that come in new tobacco flavors such as strawberry, chocolate, watermelon, cherry, vanilla, and purple grape. They are meant to be used to roll tobacco but there are concerns that they are being used for other purposes such as marijuana. This product is made in Mexico. The other product that is popular is called Snus. Snus comes in a can that resembles a mint can and contains pouches of finely chopped tobacco which are put between the cheek and the gums. This product is similar to the well known product Snuff except that the new product is spitless. They also have a spearmint flavored Snus that is packaged like gum. Snus is made by popular tobacco companies such as Camel and Marlboro. There are also flavored dissolvable tobacco pills that Mr. Beauregard found at Rite Aid. All these products have nicotine levels more than three times that of a cigarette and are highly addictive. All these products are required to list health warnings similar to cigarette packages and are kept out of reach of the public like cigarettes also. Mr. Beauregard informed the Board that not all stores in Andover are carrying these products; however, there are probably at least four that do sell them.

Mr. Beauregard wanted to bring these products to the attention of the Board. He will keep the Board posted on what develops, and will track the sales and how they are being marketed. He suggested that the Board may want to publish a Press Release so

the public can be made aware of the danger of these products without singling out any particular businesses. Some communities have banned these products outright, but since they are legal, Mr. Beauregard suggested just getting the word out there. Interviews could be conducted to see why one store chooses to carry these products while others do not. Mr. Carbone asked Mr. Beauregard if he would be willing to write an article for the Eagle Tribune “For the Health of It” column and Mr. Beauregard agreed.

III. Discussion

- **Tobacco Control Grant** – Mr. Beauregard has started the process to renew the Grant and wants to expand into other communities who do not have a Tobacco Control Program with the hope that the program will get more money for future Grants. Methuen is part of the program now. Adding Lawrence and Lowell would be too difficult due to the inner city issues, but Lowell, which has a part-time Program, has had talks with Lawrence about joining with them. Tewksbury and Billerica are interested in joining with Andover. Tomorrow there is a collaborative meeting to discuss this issue. Mr. Beauregard informed the Board that there is good support from the state to expand and now we have the framework for growth in the future.

Dr. Miller excused himself from the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

- **Regionalization Grant Program** – Mr. Carbone had a conversation recently with the Mayor of Haverhill who informed him that he is considering merging the Health Departments of Haverhill and Methuen into a district as a means to save money. As of this time Mr. Carbone knows of ten to sixteen groups who are planning on applying for regionalization Grant funds. Mr. Carbone still feels that this would not be good for the Town of Andover at this time because he believes our Health Division’s service levels would be decreased. Mr. Carbone felt that like communities should be matched up and could see Andover and North Andover sharing in the future. Mr. Carbone wrote a letter to the Town Manager explaining the Grant process and stating his concerns if we participate. ¹He advised the Town Manager to look at what the Town wants as a vision; does it want to maintain our stand alone division or to get an economy of scale and expand. There are different models out there that could be considered. Ms. Martin wanted clarification of what the objective of the Board of Selectmen’s (BOS) interest in participating in the shared services is; whether the BOS is looking to save money or to share services. If the BOS is looking to save money that would imply that we have a surplus, but we do not. If the objective is that through regionalization we would be sharing best practices, she stated that with all the work Mr. Carbone has done by Chairing several committees, we already share best practices. With better clarification, the Board of Health could respond back appropriately. Ms. Kellman asked if there was room for specialization of staff members. Mr. Carbone is of the opinion that it would be better if one person could do multiple tasks and be cross trained so that there is more flexibility. Ms.

¹ Mr. Carbone provided the Board with a copy of the letter addressed to Reginald Stapczynski, Town Manager, dated January 7, 2011. The letter is included in the Minutes Packet directly after Page 5.

Martin also questioned which community is responsible if one Health Director serves three communities. If the Mayors or Town Managers are responsible, that could put a bigger strain on them. When Mr. Carbone was looking at the slides that MDPH put together to support the Grant, they talked about Health Departments being management heavy. Mr. Carbone doesn't necessarily agree with that assessment, because in smaller communities like North Reading, the Director is not managing all the time. North Reading has only one Agent, so he is the Director, Inspector, and Secretary. Ms. Kellman asked if the concern is that the Director is getting Director pay to do inspections and tasks that an Agent should be doing. Mr. Carbone replied that is what the State is alleging. Ms. Martin stated that she could see a smaller town having a totally different model. Mr. Carbone responded that there are some small towns such as Georgetown and Newbury that share an Agent and an Inspector, so they spend the morning in Georgetown and the afternoon in Newbury. Mr. Carbone could see Merrimack and West Newbury, Newbury, Georgetown and Groveland all coming together as a region and thought they would be served very well to do that. The Board will wait to see what the response is from the Town Manager and will discuss the issue again.

- **License Renewals** – Mr. Carbone informed the Board that the renewal process went smoother this year than it has in the past five years. In years past the staff had to make many reminder phone calls in mid December and then again after the first of the year. This year very few phone calls had to be made.
- **Public Health Internships** – Mr. Carbone asked the Board Members which projects they would be interested in for an Intern to work on. Ms. Martin favored the Residential Medical Waste Disposal project. Mr. Carbone informed the Board that in the beginning of February he will be on a conference call to discuss taking Undergrad Interns from UMass Lowell, Boston University, UMass Amherst, and Worcester State. Mr. Carbone also mentioned that he spoke with our Summer Intern, Kerri Barton last week. She was on a call as an epidemiologist on an issue we had going on in Town.
- **Training Session – Basic Public Health Work** - The Board watched a training video to explain what the Board of Health does as routine work. The video included interviews with the Director of Public Health, Nurses, and other Health Staff. They discussed food sanitation which includes restaurant openings, making sure food is served safely, food handling, food temperatures and sanitation. If any violations are found, the goal is to help people through their violations and work with them to create a safer environment. If there are food borne illnesses, the Nurses follow-up. Nurses get lab reports on communicable diseases such as Hepatitis B and work with doctors and patients to help them get proper treatment. Documentation is written in several foreign languages to better help the diversified population in Andover understand our paperwork concerning vaccinations and health issues. One of the biggest issues today is complaints, which need to be dealt with quickly, usually before 24 hours have passed. Health Agents can deal with environmental hazards and can take on an active or passive roll depending on the scope of the hazard. The Healthy Communities

Tobacco Control Director runs tobacco checks on a weekly basis which adds up to over 1,000 checks per year.

IV. Old Business

- **27 Kirkland Drive** – Mr. Carbone informed the Board that Attorney Abodeely has withdrawn from representing the Santangelos. Mr. Carbone has the application for Criminal Complaint, and with the Board's permission will file it tomorrow. He has been working with Kaija Gilmore, Inspector of Buildings, because of a Zoning Bylaw concerning unregistered cars. Mr. Carbone informed the Board that he and Ms. Gilmore would be conferring with Town Council.

Motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Kellman to give Mr. Carbone authority to take action as he deems necessary to file with Housing Court. Unanimous approval.

- **Sign Volunteer Thank You Letter** – The Board Members signed a letter thanking the volunteers for helping with the Flu Clinics in 2010.

V. Definitive Subdivision Plans

- N/A

VI. Plan Review

A. **D.W.R.P. Variances/Local Upgrade Approval (LUA)**

- N/A

VII. Staff Reports

A. **Director's Report:**

- **Update on Ballardvale Road Sewer Issue (In Correspondence)** – Ms. Martin asked Mr. Carbone if this sewer connection was for the barn and if the issue was being resolved. Mr. Carbone replied that the owner did not pull the required permits or connect properly, but that he was working on getting them connected and all appropriate permits issued. The section of the sewer that was done without permits has to be reopened so it can be inspected, and that will take time.
- **Update on the new Stop & Shop – (Not on Agenda)** – Mr. Carbone informed the Board that he completed the review of the revisions and they have done all that was asked of them. There were several issues to be resolved concerning aesthetics, storage, and locations of sinks and walls. Demolition has started and within the next several weeks construction should start. The delay in permitting has been by design of Stop & Shop and not a result of Town review.

- **Important Dates:**

- February 7, 2011 @ 6:00 p.m. – Board of Health Meeting
- February 24, 2011-MHOA/DEP Seminar
- March 7, 2011 @ 6 p.m. – Board of Health Meeting

B. Nurses' Reports for December, 2010 – The Nurses' Reports for December 2010, were for informational purposes only.

C. Inspectors' Reports for December, 2010 – The Inspectors' Reports for December, 2010 were for informational purposes only.

VIII. Board Member Reports

- N/A

IX. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Kellman, to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. Unanimous approval.